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THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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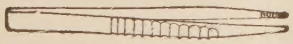

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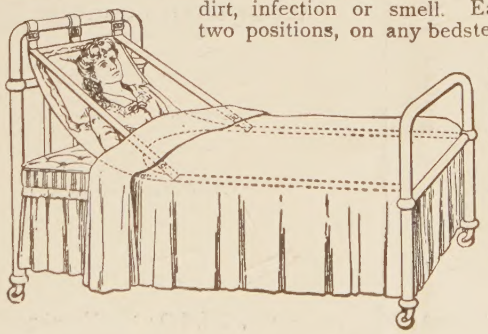

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12th April, 1917. 73

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"THE MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT.

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302—The East End Mothers' Lying-in Homes.

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EDITORIAL.

THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

It was announced in a Sunday paper on April 22nd that

> "From Monday week Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson will transfer 'The Passing of the Third Floor Back' to the Queen's Theatre, and devote the profits of the new season to the 'British Women's Hospital Fund, in aid of the Nation's Fund for Nurses: a Thank-Offering to British Nurses, from the Women of the British Empire.'"

This was a somewhat astounding bit of news, as the profession generally were quite unaware that a Nation's Fund for Nurses was being organized.

As our readers are probably aware, the British Women's Hospital Fund was organized by the Actresses' Franchise League, and is composed almost entirely of members of the dramatic profession, and the efforts of these most patriotic women on behalf of our sick and wounded have been immensely successful. They handed over £100,000 to Her Majesty the Queen, in support of the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers, and have recently secured generous support for the Scottish Women's Hospital Fund.

The announcement of a National Fund for Nurses led us to seek further information on the subject from Lady Cowdray, Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, which has been most kindly and courteously given. The gift is to take the form of an endowment for the College of Nursing. The establishment and endowment of such a College has long been a cherished hope of the members of the self-governing Associations of Nurses which have worked so long and so bravely for their professional enfranchisement, but the dangerous and restricted constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., as at present defined, has prevented many nurses from applying for membership. It is not proposed that the College shall be solely an educational body, which might reasonably appeal for, and accept, endowment from external sources. It also proposes to assume the functions of the governing body of the nursing profession, to take charge of its Register, and to determine whose names may, and may not, be placed on and removed from that Register, and thus allows a lay body to assume a monopoly of control over the educational standards, professional liberties, and economic conditions of trained nurses. We hope therefore that, before this gift to the nursing profession takes final form, the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund will confer with the organized members of the profession they desire to benefit, and fully acquaint themselves with the opinions and feelings of trained nurses concerning their own affairs.

We feel sure that the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund are actuated by the most generous motives, but, we are not convinced that they possess all the expert information available on the subject.

An educational endowment would be of undoubted benefit to the nursing profession, and indeed we have publicly pleaded for it for the last twenty years. It is not the function of hospital committees to provide an all-round education for nurses. Education is costly, and the public do not subscribe to hospitals in order that nurses may be educated, but in order that the sick may be nursed, and the sole reason from the point of view of hospital committees for establishing nurse-training schools is that they provide the most economical and efficient method of nursing the sick in hospital wards; but such a limitation leaves large gaps in a nurse's education.

In considering the organization of the Nursing Profession in this country, it becomes more and more apparent that it should follow the method adopted by the medical profession.

The definition of educational standards, registration, government and discipline of the profession of medicine is entrusted by the State to the General Medical Council, while the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in the

three kingdoms are teaching bodies and concerned with practical education.

If the organization of the Nursing Profession proceeded on these lines, the endowment of academic bodies would command the sincere gratitude of the nursing profession. But its discipline, and just economic conditions, can only be maintained by an independent Statutory Authority through which trained nurses themselves have adequate direct representation, and power of self-government.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

HOW WOULD YOU PREPARE A PATIENT FOR THE REMOVAL OF AN EYE. DESCRIBE THE SUBSEQUENT NURSING CARE.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Gertrude Hare, The Broadway, Ore.

PRIZE PAPER.

There are various reasons for which an eye may have to be excised: a painful blind eye; a ruptured eyeball or an injury that may affect the other one, and cause sympathetic ophthalmia; a foreign body in the eye, or a malignant growth.

Unless impossible because of a sudden call for the operation, the patient should be prepared by aperient and enema for a general anæsthetic. Though the tear ducts may interfere with absolute asepticism, the eye should be previously irrigated, and the lids and surrounding skin cleansed and aseptically dressed. The lotions usually in use for ophthalmic irrigation are sterilized distilled water, sterilized saline solution, or boracic.

The instruments required are a speculum, fixation forceps, small blunt-pointed scissors (curved or straight, according to the surgeon's preference), for dividing the conjunctiva and muscles; a hook for picking up the muscles, and a larger pair of curved scissors for cutting the optic nerve.

After the nerve is divided and the eyeball removed, the socket is thoroughly irrigated with lotion, either *hot* or iced, and then tightly bandaged over graduated pads of sterilized absorbent wool.

Adrenalin 1-1,000 should be at hand, lest there be bleeding.

After the patient is warm in bed hæmorrhage may occur, which can, as a rule, be stopped by firm packing. Should it continue, a surgeon should be called, who will, probably, remove the dressings, again thoroughly wash out the socket with lotion, either *hot* or iced, and perhaps apply adrenalin or other styptic. Should it still continue, he may then plug the socket with the plugging soaked in a styptic, and then apply a firm pad. This treatment invariably answers. Only once in twenty years have we seen it fail. Then an anæsthetic was again administered and a vessel tied.

In ordinary straightforward cases the nursing is quite simple. The socket is irrigated and dressed daily, and the patient allowed to get up from bed on the second or third day. No special feeding beyond that which is nutrient is required after the effects of the anæsthetic have passed off. After a week the patient is more than convalescent, and bandages are discarded, nothing more than sponging being subsequently required.

Six weeks or two months are allowed to elapse ere a glass eye can be worn without irritating the socket.

Excision in the case of children is much to be deplored, for without the eyeball the socket does not grow, and there is consequent deformity of the face.

There are, however, two operations which tend to prevent this disfigurement, the results of which are practically removal of the eye—evisceration and abscission.

In evisceration the cornea and all the contents of the eyeball are removed, the sclerotic alone being left. The instruments required, in addition to those needed for an excision, are a Beers knife or scalpel, for cutting away the cornea, and a scoop (Müles) for scooping out the contents of the ball, and very small-pressure forceps for holding the tiny sponges which are usually dipped into adrenalin before mopping out the cavity. This operation is sometimes performed when a globe is suppurating, as a safeguard against meningitis—a danger to be feared from a suppurating globe should the optic nerve be severed for an excision, though happily this catastrophe is of very rare occurrence.

For thoroughly washing out the cavity the surgeon may perhaps prefer an indiarubber tubing in a jug of lotion, with small taps on end, instead of the Undine irrigator in general use for "eye" washing. This cavity is likely to be plugged for the first twenty-four hours, after which the plugging may be removed, the cavity frequently washed out, and a dry dressing or fomentations put on. A Müles ball may be inserted to make a good stump for a glass eye to fit on to. This special ball was designed by the ophthalmic surgeon, Mr. Müles, and can be procured in various sizes.

from that of a big currant to that of a gooseberry. They have a tiny hole like a pinprick, which allows them to fill with fluid, and so be less likely to smash. Sometimes this foreign body causes much irritation, which it is usually possible to relieve by fomentations or a graduated pad of about four thicknesses of lint kept continually cold by dropping iced lotion on to it with a wool sponge. The reaction usually subsides in three or four days, but the temperature should be taken at least thrice daily, and the surgeon carefully informed, that he may decide whether the irritation be sufficient for removal of the glass eyeball. Ordinarily there is a slight rise at first. Great care must be exercised as to asepticism during the dressings, or the stitches will give way and the ball fall out. Children's fingers are sometimes difficult to control.

An abscission, sometimes performed in the case of young children, means the removal of cornea, iris, and lens. The coats are sewn up over the remaining vitreous, it making a good stump for the future glass eye.

Ophthalmic instruments are, as a rule, boiled for only a few moments, and then placed in absolute alcohol, their fineness being so easily blunted. Sponges require to be only about a quarter of the size used for ordinary dressings, and should, of course, be thoroughly sterilized.

Pain is, as a rule, but slight after excision, though abscission and evisceration usually entail it.

THE NEED FOR NURSE DIETITIANS.

I have often been struck by the great difference in feeding a patient in Belgrave Square or Park Lane and a patient in hospital.

Suppose two women have the same disease and have to be fed on milk for a week or two, then on more solid food, until the roast beef stage is reached.

The Belgrave Square patient will have milk every two hours, but she will not have it served twice in the same form in the twenty-four hours.

The other patient, in one of our large hospitals, will have her regulation feed of milk, and the only difference will be that she may have it hot or cold, and always on Sundays it will have been boiled—milk is always boiled on Sundays. Then the Belgrave Square patient will have her fish pounded up and made smooth and of such a consistency that it can be swallowed with little or no effort. I have seen the hospital patient chew and chew a mouthful of fish and finally eject it. I have seen and eaten fish in hospital which approached as nearly as possible in taste and consistency to a piece of wet flannel. I have also seen overboiled fish served with under-boiled cabbage and potatoes of greyish colouring; no sauce, no butter. I have also seen fish most excellently fried: in fact, the patients used to say you could not get better at a fried fish shop, and I believe they spoke truly.

When the fish stage is passed, the Belgrave Square patient has such a choice of dishes, and so many different methods of cooking, that if she does not make a speedy recovery it is not the fault of the commissariat.

But in the case of the hospital patient it is quite a different matter. She has four meals a day, and three out of the four consist of bread and butter—the bread cut thick and the butter cut thin. I have met people who like that kind of bread and butter, but they are few and far between. The fourth meal will be either boiled or roast beef or mutton, potatoes and cabbage, followed by a milk pudding. When I was a probationer and had to take the dinners round, I used to apologise for the milk puddings, but I gave it up; it grew so monotonous, and there was always the hope that the patient might eat it without noticing how nasty it was, if I did not draw her attention to it.

I had often remarked that, considering they were sick folk, hospital patients were shockingly fed, and were always told it was better than they would get in their own homes; but that is not true in many cases. Take an ordinary women's ward: many of the patients are servants, and they are usually well fed. They leave to "better" themselves if they are not. Some are shop assistants, and some shop assistants are exceptionally well fed. I had a patient from one shop in London who told me they always had a two-course breakfast, with choice of three or four different things, a three-course dinner, and always jam, cake, or scones for tea, finishing with a two-course supper, hot in winter, cold in summer, and cocoa, tea or milk to drink. Then there are Post Office girls and teachers; if they do not live at home, they usually lodge where the cooking is good, and of course there is the married woman, who perhaps does not get roast beef more than once a week at home, but she does have something for breakfast and something savoury for supper, even if it be only a herring, which by the way is very nutritious.

I remember a poor woman telling me one day that she should take her man home:—"We are both very grateful for all that has been done for him, but you see how it is, nurse, he won't

get strong if he don't eat, and he can't eat the food here. Now if he had a bit of dripping toast, with a dash of pepper on it, he'd make a good supper and sleep well after it, but here he don't sleep because he's hungry, and you see, nurse, we're only poor folk, we can't afford for him to be ill long. He must get well quick, or he'll lose his job, so he'd best come home, and I'll have to run a little account and pay it back when he gets back to work again," so he went home, and it seemed to me so stupid. He had one of the best physicians in London, a beautiful hospital, most expensively built, and yet he had to go home, a one-roomed home at that, to be fed up because we only gave him stale bread and butter and one other meal a day.

Why cannot the cooking in our hospitals be under the care of a trained nurse? The ordinary cook does not know the needs of sick folk, and why are beef and mutton the only change from stale bread and butter? There are other foods much cheaper. Take haricots, lentils, and peas. They are cheaper, contain more nitrogenous matter, can be served in scores of appetising ways. And why is cheese never seen in hospitals? If patients can eat meat and watery cabbage, they could eat cheese. Then if they must have milk puddings, there are other things of which to make them; they need not always be made of rice. And why could they not have stewed fruit with their puddings?

I daresay it would cost more, because bread and butter requires so little preparation, but then hospitals exist on purpose to make people well quickly, and what is the good of spending pounds upon marble and beautiful tiles, and saving a few shillings on the food?

M. H.

OUR ONLY HOPE.

Mrs. Despard presided last Saturday at a meeting organised by various women's suffrage societies at the Central Hall, Westminster, when Mrs. Swanwick moved a resolution calling on the House of Commons to pass as wide a measure of women's suffrage as possible this session.

Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., said it might be that in six months' time several millions of women would be called on to record their votes at the polls. It was very likely that there would be none of the usual political parties. He urged that this large accretion of female voters should form a new party—a party of freedom and equality for all mankind, a party which would put down monopoly and lift up the ideals of morality and religion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

Home Hospitals.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty in Home Hospitals :—

Hospital for Officers, 26, Park Lane.—Miss M. E. Hall.

Red Cross Hospital, Christchurch, Hants.—Miss E. J. Sayle.

St. Bernard's Red Cross Hosp., Wylde Green, near Birmingham.—Miss Adah Cardall.

Hillsborough Red Cross Hosp., Harlow, Essex.—Mrs. Edith Rushworth.

St. John's Hosp., Oatland House, Portsmouth.—Mrs. Edith Hancock.

Balmoral Hosp., Llandudno.—Miss Margaret Allen.

Struan House, Maitland Road, Reading.—Mrs. Elsie Chanter.

Command Depot Hosp., Alnwick.—Miss Minnie Hudson.

V.A.D. Hosp., Clifford Street, York.—Miss M. Diamond.

Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells.—Miss M. L. Smith.

Hosp. for Officers, Burridge Road, Torquay.—Miss E. A. Wickham.

Red Cross Aux. Hosp. (on the Thames).—Miss T. Somers.

Hosp. for Officers, Hawkstone Park, Shrewsbury.—Miss Gladys Owen.

Red CrossHosp., Malmesbury.—Miss Irene Hardy.

St. John's V.A.D. Hosp., Rugby.—Miss E. S. Chinn, Miss E Hadfield.

Uplands Aux. Mil. Hosp., Winchester.—Miss C. D. Hirst.

Kingswood Park Hosp., Tunbridge Wells.—Miss M. A. G. Dixon.

Urmston Hosp., Eastbourne.—Miss C. M. Hodges.

Highfield Hall, Southampton.—Miss A. M. Brown.

Toxteth Hall Hosp., Liverpool.—Miss M. A. Kett.

Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich.—Miss K. L. Morrall.

Enfield V.A.D. Hosp., St. Mark's Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield.—Miss A. Sim.

Bricket House, St. Albans.—Miss L. E. Gorman.

Aux. Mil. Hosp., Fleet, Hants.—Miss M. Crowley.

Harborne Hall Aux. Hosp., Harborne, Birmingham.—Miss C. Pace.

Thornby Grange Hosp., Grilsborough, Northants.—Miss S. A. Prickett.

Prince's Club Hosp., 106, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.—Mrs. B. Moberley.

Red Cross Hosp., Station Road, Gillingham, Dorset.—Mrs. L. M. Chisholm.

Foreign Service.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty abroad :—

Boulogne Head Quarters.—Miss A. Pugh, Miss M. Pritchard Jones, Miss M. J. Holmes, Miss Christina Hendrick.

Brigade Hospital, Etaples.—Miss R. C. Lazenby.

La Panne.—Miss A. R. Sweeney.

Corsica, Scottish Women's Hosp.—Miss H. Toshack.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

A beautiful wreath inscribed "Lest we Forget," was placed on the plinth of Florence Nightingale's statue on April 19th, to the memory of the Nursing Sisters lost in the Red Cross ships *Asturias* and *Salta*, by the medical staff of the *Aquitania*.

We hear in the journalistic world that it is thought well in high quarters that the veil of silence cast over the magnificent work of our splendid professional nurses during the war, should be judiciously lifted for just a peep at their prowess, as they have been somewhat cast in the shade by the public praise lavished upon untrained women, who have monopolised all the limelight on the nursing stage since the beginning of the war.

We feel sure that our Military Nursing Sisters, whose heroism is assured, have no desire whatever to compete in pictorial print with what are known as the "Peeress Nurses," whose charms are so lavishly displayed in a variety of nursing uniforms in every available paper —or to be classed in any way with the "Dill-Binkies"—dubbed "fashionable asses" by our keen-tongued Florence Nightingale so long ago as the fifties.

The professional nurse only desires not to be patronised, and to be permitted to go about her business caring for our sick and wounded to the utmost of her ability—and, if possible, saving their precious limbs and lives. Their gratitude is all the reward she really values. Of course, should an R.R.C. or a Military Medal come her way, why, no doubt, she loves to have it, and is as proud as can be to wear it. In this connection, in an appreciative article in the *Daily Telegraph*, it is stated :—

"The Royal Red Cross has never yet been conferred posthumously, but there is good reason to think that the King may make the first exception in favour of the two noble women who laid down their lives on the Salonika front. These heroines were Miss M. Marshall and Miss M. S. Dewar. The first-named was in the operating theatre of the hospital, which was not very far from Monastir, when enemy aeroplanes came over, and, utterly regardless of the Red Cross prominently displayed, began to drop bombs upon it. Miss Marshall was killed outright, and the danger was so great for half-an-hour that the medical officers urged the nurses to take cover. With splendid recklessness of themselves, they refused to leave the bedsides of their patients, and Miss Dewar was struck and mortally wounded as she was bending over a man, suffering acute pain, in order to move his pillow to afford him some slight relief. Happily, he suffered no further injury, but the brave nurse herself was picked up and placed on a bed for the short space that elapsed before she succumbed to the terrible hurt she had sustained.

"In the last gentle ministrations to her, Miss Annie Colhoun assisted, though she had herself also been seriously wounded by a fragment of the bomb. In spite of the shock which she had experienced, she refused to leave her post, and Sister Garratt also continued to attend to her patients while the deadly bombs were falling thick and fast, and claiming a toll of the stricken men. All these ladies belonged to Queen Alexandra's Reserve."

LEST WE FORGET.

Wreath placed on Florence Nightingale's Statue to the memory of Nursing Sisters lost in the Red Cross ships "Asturias" and "Salta" by the medical staff of the "Aquitania."

We regret that the writer of this article on "The Splendid Service," omitted all reference to the "Serf Clause" in the new Agreement, which Sisters and Nurses on the "Reserve" have to sign before being eligible for the rise of £20 salary they so well deserve. The London Press is very timorous in advocating just reforms for our

profession, presumably for fear of hurting the susceptibilities of Royal patrons—and other powerful officials. The Clause in question is tyrannous and abominable, and if the daily Press had an ounce of conscience, it would use its influence to deliver women whose heroism it extols, from this unjust provision. Anyway, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will continue to claim that the Clause be modified or deleted. We are glad to learn quite a number of self-respecting nurses have refused to sign it. It is as out-of-date as the Dodo—or the Tsar!

An interesting little ceremony took place at the County of London War Hospital, Epsom, on Saturday last, when a presentation was made to Mrs. Williams, of the Australian Red Cross Society. This lady has worked very hard for the wounded Australians brought to this hospital since the earliest days of its opening. The presentation took the form of a case of cutlery and table silver, and was a spontaneous act by the Australian soldiers in this hospital to mark their appreciation of this lady's work and charming personality.

The Canadian Prime Minister paid a visit to this hospital a few days ago, in order to visit the Canadian wounded. Besides admitting large convoys of wounded from France it is the nearest military hospital for the large Canadian camps at Woodcote, where there are about 35,000 men.

Lafayette [*Dublin*

MISS HUTCHINGS, R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S. RESERVE,
Sister, Military Hospital, Curragh Camp.

We have received a number of photographs of Irish recipients of the Royal Red Cross, and congratulate both the nurses who have received this honour, and their native land which has sent such charming women into the nursing profession. The Daughters of Erin are noted for their wit and beauty, and their versatility is no mean asset in nurses who have to cope with sudden emergencies. Note the portrait of Sister Hutchings, R.R.C.

The Commissioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, have made representations to the Army Council on the subject of the present rates of pay of the Nursing and Domestic Staff of the Royal Hospital, and have now received official sanction to grant a War Bonus of (approximately) £5 5s. a year to each of the Sisters (including the Housekeeper) and Nurses, with effect from 1st January, 1917. Approval has also been given for the same War Bonus for the following members of Domestic Staff: The Matron's Maid, the Cook, and the Senior Mess-room Maid.

A British Nurse, just back from Petrograd has given to the *Weekly Dispatch* a vivid account of her experiences during the recent revolution.

About 7.30 one morning there passed down the street, "a wonderful procession—the vanguard of the brave liberators of Russia. The soldier patriots in their grey coats, on foot, and in motor-lorries and motor-cars, were going down the street in a steady and orderly manner, protecting a crowd of starving men, women, and children, who were walking in the centre of the procession. At their head was a band playing the 'Marseillaise,' and a large red flag borne aloft."

As the procession neared the Hotel Moscow, there was a sudden outburst of fierce firing from machine-guns controlled by the police, in ambush on the roof of the hotel, and soldiers, women, and children fell to the ground, and the street became a shambles. The nurse saw the soldiers who had not fallen, immediately enter the hotel, make their way to the roof, shoot the cowardly police, capture the machine-guns, and bring them down to the street, and fix them on the back seats of the motor lorries. Then the processionists re-formed and fought their way, in the face of machine fire on the roofs, till they reached the Duma, where they demanded and obtained the wheat that had been concealed from the starving people.

In the hospital, men, women, and children were admitted in a ceaseless stream all day long, and firing was going on around. Then, as it was feared the possessions of the nurses in the Nurses' Home were in danger, volunteers were called for, and a Russian, a Canadian, and two British nurses,

accompanied by an orderly, set out and ran the gauntlet of the half-mile, with bullets whistling round. The writer concludes: "Only a miracle saved us from injury, and our friends in the hospital who expected us to return on stretchers, received us with great joy."

The murderer, "by command," of Nurse Cavell—General von Bissing—the Governor of Belgium, is dead. He leaves behind him a list of unforgettable and unmentionable crimes. It is reported that he has never been the same man since the execution of the heroic Englishwoman. He could not sleep and was a nervous wreck. He imagined her ghost was haunting him. We feel sure that the spirit of this saintly woman would have only come with healing in her hands—and could have inspired no fear even in the coward heart of this criminal. No doubt the wailing of women for their dead, their horror at the violation of their chastity, and the despair of patriots, must have surcharged the air he breathed with horror. Little wonder his mind became distraught!

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

We learn from France that all letters must be stamped, and that the sisters of the F.F.N.C. are being charged extra postage on their letters. We hope their friends, many of whom read this journal, will note this fact, and stamp letters addressed to them, otherwise it causes them great expense.

THE PATIENTS' WORKSHOP AT THE FIRST LONDON GENERAL.

The opening of the patients' workshop, and the Exhibition and Sale of Patients' Work at the First London General Hospital, T.F., Camberwell, on Saturday last was a great success. The workshop, a light and airy hut, is fitted with carpenters' benches, forms, and lathes, and it was to provide funds to equip it further, and to buy the necessary tools, that the Sale was held and we are glad to say realized £176.

The fact that £10 were given in prizes no doubt stimulated the competitors to do their best, but the talent and ingenuity shown were really remarkable. The aeroplane made by L. Cpl. Meers, Ward 30, which won a first prize was a beautiful model. The body, grey in colour, with the top painted brown, was decorated with grey, white and blue lines and designs; it carried an aviator and mounted a gun. The materials used in its construction were a tea chest, a broken splint, a piece of a cigar box, pieces of deal board, a broken chair rung, cigarette tins, a broken hat pin and rubber from potted meat jars. The aeroplane was priced at £5 5s., and was well worth it. Another first prize was won by Pte. Powell for a black satin cushion cover, beautifully embroidered with a basket of flowers. The basket was outlined in yellow silk, and the pink and mauve flowers, and green leaves, were in raised work which was most effective.

The Tank, constructed by Sapper Potts, R.E., Ward 25, was a marvel of ingenuity. Sapper Potts who has been in the hospital since last March is not a mechanic, and has never seen a tank, yet he has constructed one which progresses in the most approved fashion.

Other prizes were won by a G.N.R. engine, built by L. Corpl. Smylie, and L. Corpl. D. T. Rosson. Another aeroplane by Sergeant H. L. Gilligan of 1/1 Surrey Yeomanry (Queen Mary's Regiment), and a second cushion cover, embroidered in pink, blue, and mauve on a grey silk background was most dainty and charming.

Some most interesting water colours illustrated a trench foot and trench hand, with the pink finger tips and nails, and the toes, turning black. They were shown by L. Corpl. Butley of the Artists Rifles, Ward 32. In the centre of the hut was a stall furnished by the nursing staff, and at the further end deft waitresses—voluntary workers on the Staff of the hospital—in pretty blue gowns, spotted muslin aprons, and mob caps were kept busy serving tea which was hospitably provided.

The Matron, Miss Appleyard, with the Sisters and nurses were indefatigable, and they deserved the manifest success they gained when at five o'clock the stalls looked as if they had been cleared by a swarm of locusts.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

It is well to be Welsh in these days as both the Premier and his kindly wife are intensely patriotic where the little Principality is concerned. Mrs. Lloyd George has signed an appeal with other Welsh ladies in further support of the Welsh-London Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for foreign service, which has done such good work in Serbia. This organization has been supported entirely by voluntary contributions, a sum of more than £196,000 having been contributed. The maintenance of the work involves an outlay of £6,000 a month, there is a steady increase in the cost of hospital equipment, and more funds are badly needed.

Lady Llangattock in opening a new Red Cross Hospital at Monmouth said Monmouthshire and the Principality of Wales had gained a great name and position in this war by giving up men by thousands to fight for freedom. She ventured to say that the Welsh patron saint, St. David, would have called this war a righteous one. She further added: "I need hardly remind you of another David, now in a prominent position, the leader of the "Push and Go" Government, which has taken for its motto, "This one thing I do," and gallant little Wales is determined to back up her gallant David in his strenuous work, whether in the fighting line or at home, on the farms, in factories, or mines." Wherever duty called them British women had come forward in a loyal manner.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION HELP THE WOUNDED.

The Duke of Connaught's Auxiliary Hospital for Irish Sailors and Soldiers who have lost a limb in the war is to be situated at beautiful and breezy Bray. On Saturday last, in aid of this hospital, Lady Wimborne and some of the Viceregal party were present at the matinée, which was organised by the N.U.W.W. in the Theatre Royal. The programme was extremely interesting and novel, and included dramatic illustrations of Women's Work, as well as a representation for the first time in Dublin of the poetic play, "Chitra," by Sir Rabindranath Tagore.

The Irish Nurses' Association took an active and very successful part in the function, and organised and presented a most beautiful succession of Nursing Tableaux, entitled "The Evolution of Nursing," in which Sisters and nurses from many of the principal Dublin hospitals took part. Picture 1. The Religious Orders: Miss Downie and Miss Cullen. 2. Sairey Gamp and Betsy Prig: Mrs. Manning (Elpis) and Mrs. William Taylor. 3. The Spirit of Florence Nightingale: Miss Daly. 4. The Nightingale Nurses: Miss Cambridge and Miss Guinan. 5. Modern Nursing, 1917: Misses Kennedy, Lloyd, Thomson, Gleeson, McLaughlin and O'Donnell.

In the last scene, Dr. Smith, of Messrs. Smith & Sheppard, supplied all the artificial limbs for the hospital, and was seen fitting limbs on the wounded. (Nurses in character.)

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION HERALD, SISTER MOLONY, RICHMOND HOSPITAL.

Two members, dressed to impersonate the I.N.A. acted as Heralds (and our readers can see how charming they looked from our portrait of Sister Molony of the Richmond Hospital) stood each side of the platform, and announced the names of the tableaux by holding up large placards.

The artistic and realistic success of these charming tableaux was assured as Miss Carson-Rae and Miss Patton together organised them.

English and Scottish Nurses who attended the Dublin Nursing Conference in 1913 still retain keen admiration of the dramatic talent of their Irish sisters as displayed in the lovely series of Nursing Tableaux then presented, which so delighted the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Aberdeen, that, had time permitted, he wished an encore of every scene.

We hope our gallant Irish defenders will benefit by this artistic matinée.

IRISH NURSES' CO-OP. HOSTEL CO., LTD.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Company was held on April 12th at 5 p.m. The Balance Sheet shows a small profit on the year's working of about £50. This was felt to be quite creditable when it was taken into consideration that a number of the members are doing War Service, and only pay half fees, and also that the pre-war rate of charge for board is still in force. As the Hostel is financed by the Nurses, they agreed some time ago that it would benefit them more to have to pay out less during the year than to show a big profit at the end of it. The business-like manner in which Irish Nurses manage their Hostel is a lesson to those who consider women incapable of taking care of their own financial affairs.

SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Society will be held at the Offices, 431, Oxford Street, W., on Thursday, May 3rd, at 5 p.m., to arrange the Agenda for the Annual Meeting—by which date nominations for the Executive Committee must reach the Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Breay.

THE GUY'S HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Annual Dinner of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League took place in the beautiful dining hall in the Nurses' Home at the Hospital on Friday, April 20th, at 7 p.m. The Matron, Miss Margaret Hogg, presided, and was supported by Miss Swift, R.R.C., and many other past and present members of the nursing staff, although owing to the number of nurses engaged in war work, and the difficulty and expense of railway travelling, the meeting was smaller than usual.

When the members were assembled for dinner the following telegram was sent to Miss Haughton, who is at present at Ramsgate :—"Nurses' League Members assembled at dinner send you best wishes."

The dinner was served with the expedition which always characterises the service on these occasions, and the Sisters presided at the head of the tables, which were decorated with red and white flowers. After dinner it is the pleasant custom for the guests to assemble in the hall where coffee is served, and this affords a much appreciated opportunity for conversation, and one of those rare occasions for renewing old friendships so much prized by busy workers.

The Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Nurses' Sitting Room, the Chair being taken by Miss F. A. Sheldon, Lady Superintendent of the Trained Nurses Institute.

Miss Sheldon, in the name of all members of the League, present and absent, gave a very hearty welcome to Miss Hogg on her appointment as Matron of the Hospital, and referred to the tragic cause of Miss Haughton's resignation. She asked the support and co-operation of all members of the League for Miss Hogg.

She then invited Miss Swift to move a vote of thanks to Miss Haughton.

Miss Swift said that it was with mixed feelings she proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Haughton on account of her enforced retirement. Miss Haughton had taken a deep interest in the work of the League from its inception, and from the first gave her best help and advice on all points. When she was appointed Matron she also became Hon. Secretary of the League, and all felt they had a real friend in her.

Miss Swift then spoke a few words of welcome to Miss Hogg. It was, she said, a difficult thing to take on the Matronship so suddenly as she had done, and she asked them to give her their warmest welcome and their help. Guy's nurses should help to keep up the standard of training. She moved a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Haughton for her invaluable work, and expressed all good wishes on behalf of the League to Miss Hogg on her appointment.

Mrs. Poolman, who cordially seconded the resolution, said that she was sure one and all would be delighted to support it, and it was carried by acclamation.

Miss Hogg, who, on rising, was warmly received, said that as Matron it was a very great pleasure to her to welcome the members of the League, though the meeting was smaller than usual owing to the difficulty and expense of travelling She thanked Miss Swift and Miss Sheldon for their good wishes and the meeting for the way in which they had received the resolution.

Hon. Secretary's Report.

Miss Hogg then, as Hon. Secretary, presented her report of the year's work, which stated that between eighty and ninety members have been transferred to the past members' section during the year. 130 week-ends and days off have been spent at the Cottage, and 1,280 short visits had been paid.

1,518 volumes have been taken out of the Nurses' Library. Owing to the war very little has been done by the different clubs and societies, and the use of cameras having been still further restricted, it had not been thought expedient to hold a competitive exhibition of photographs, but a few photographs had been got together which it was hoped would be of interest to members.

In December, a copy of the new edition of the *Nursing Guide* was sent out to members, and a small gift in the form of a calendar with a photograph of the hospital was sent to nurses working in military hospitals abroad with the best wishes of the League, which had been much appreciated.

Honours for Guy's Nurses.

Since the last Annual Meeting the following Guy's Nurses have received the Royal Red Cross :—

ROYAL RED CROSS.

First Class.—Misses L. V. Haughton. E. M. Newton, N. Suart, C. Todd, A. Willes, E. C. Cheetham, A. B. Nunn, M. L. Potter.

Second Class.—Misses E. F. Beloe, A. M. Blott, Mrs. Clarke (née Crocker), Misses M. E. Cook, M. E. Hobhouse, B. A. Hope, L. E. Jolley, A. R. I. Lowe, M. E. Marsh, M. J. Nawn, S. A. Selby, L. G. Sheild, K. E. G. Taylor, D. Woollett, E. Stedman, K. Vine, M. Willes.

During the war 11 Guy's Nurses have received the Royal Red Cross 1st class, 19 the R.R.C. 2nd class, and 27 have been mentioned in dispatches.

There are now nearly 500 Guy's Nurses working in military hospitals at home and abroad.

The deaths of two members of the League since the last meeting were recorded with regret—Miss Alice Wilcox, from heart and bronchial disease, and Miss Jessie Sarah Burn from acute bronchitis.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

In the absence of Mrs. Cameron Miss Hogg also presented the Hon. Treasurer's Report. The income of the League for the year amounted to £353 11s. 11d. and the expenditure to £374 8s. 2d. The excess of expenditure over income was thus £20 16s. 3d., due to the cost of printing the new Edition of the *Nursing Guide*, which owing to the increase in the price of paper, labour and in the number of pages had amounted to £187, part of which would be recovered from advertisers.

The Council were prepared for this expenditure, and a balance of £119 had been brought forward from last year to help to meet it. The subscriptions had again covered the working expenses of the League, and in spite of the publication of the *Nursing Guide* there was a balance of £98 16s. 10d. to carry forward.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL FOR 1917.

The result of the ballot was announced by Miss Smith, the following representatives being appointed :—

Nurses' Choral Society.—Sister Ethel, Miss E. A. Smith, Nurse Murton.

Nurses' Tennis Club.—Sister Astley Cooper, Miss Maher, Nurse Dickie.

Nurses' Debating Society.—Sister Patience, Miss Kirby, Nurse Weston.

Nurses' Swimming Club.—Sister Violet, Miss V. Smith, Nurse M. Culleton.

Nurses' Photographic Society.—Sister Mary, Miss H. Edmonds, Nurse Furley.

Nurses' Library.—Sister Naaman, Miss L. Fletcher, Nurse Verden.

Needlework.—Sister Kate, Miss K. E. New, Nurse Stebbins.

The election of three Hon. Members of Council was then confirmed :—Lady Lane, Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Bromley. Followed by hearty votes of thanks to the officers and Chair.

Miss Swift then said she thought most of those present had heard of the College of Nursing and invited them to join it, and also invited them to a concert in the Queen's Hall on May 2nd.

The formal business over, the meeting broke up into little groups, some staying to enjoy the excellent music provided by members of the nursing staff in the sitting-room, and others inspecting the photographs in another room, including some really beautiful ones lent by the Royal Photographic Society by members of the affiliation.

It was an additional pleasure to many of those present that they were able to congratulate Miss Hogg, the new Matron, on her appointment, and all the guests must have appreciated the courtesy and charm with which she acted as hostess.

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Fifteenth Annual Conference and Meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League will be held at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., on Wednesday, May 2nd, when all members and friends of the League are cordially invited to be present.

PROGRAMME.

"CHARACTER-BUILDING : THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD."

Morning Session, 10.15–12.30. Chairman, Miss M. F. Daniel. National Anthem. Prayer for Doctors, Sisters, and all members throughout the world. "The N.M.L. in 1916–17" : Miss H. Y. Richardson. "The Foundation of all true Character-building" : Miss J. Macfee. "The Materials for all true Character-building" : Miss M. F. Daniel. Interval. "The Result of all true Character-building" : Mrs. Sturge. Intercession. Tea and coffee and time for social intercourse, 11.15–11.30.

Afternoon Conversazione, 2.30–5.—Hostesses : Mrs. Weir (St. Bart's. and Korea), Miss Hope Bell (the London and China), Miss F. E. Campbell (Guy's and S. India), Miss Carswell (King's College and Korea), Miss I. Tait (St. Bart's. and China). Addresses : "The Sphere of the Missionary Nurse (1) In North India : Miss M. Lamb (Amritsar) ; (2) In South India" : Miss F. E. Campbell (Shemoga). "The N.M.L. during a Third Year of War" : Mrs. Douglas Thornton. The afternoon affords special opportunity for getting to know members from other hospitals and committee members.

Evening Meeting, 7.30–9.30.—Chairman, Lieut.-Colonel A. Carless, M.S., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C. : National Anthem. Opening hymn and prayer. Adoption of Annual Report, and Election of Committee for 1917–18* : H. Crichton Miller, M.A., M.D. "The Sphere of the Missionary Nurse—in Persia" : Miss Catherine M. Ironside, M.B. "New Days" : The Rev. C. Mollan Williams, M.A. Benediction. Tea and coffee, 6.45–7.15.

It is hoped that members will act as hostesses throughout the day, and will help to bring others and to interest them in the work of the League.

HOW BRITISH !

The German war on the wounded is the last phase of their barbarism and need surprise no one. Two more of our hospital ships have been torpedoed in the Channel, the *Donegal* and the *Lanfranc*, and 60 of our men have been drowned, 15 German wounded prisoners shared their fate, and "152 wounded German prisoners were rescued by British patrol vessels at the imminent risk of being themselves torpedoed." How truly British ! and that is, of course, synonymous with the most chivalrous benevolence to fallen fellow man, of however loathly a type !

* A list of Nominations for the Committee will be hung in the Hall during the day.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

The Sanatorium, Bedall's School, Petersfield. — Miss C. Alice Barling has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and has been Sister at the Victoria Hospital, Folkestone; Matron of the Borough Sanatorium, Folkestone; and for eleven years of the Ilford Isolation Hospital, Chadwell Heath. Miss Barling has always taken an active interest in professional organization, and is a member of the Matrons' Council and of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Victoria Cottage Hospital, Guernsey. — Miss F. E. Forsdick has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford; has had eighteen months' experience of private nursing; and has been Sister for five years and Assistant Matron for eighteen months at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford.

SISTER.

North Derbyshire Hospital, Chesterfield. — Miss E. Brown has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Monsall Fever Hospital and the Infirmary, Bolton, and has been Sister at the Bolton Infirmary and the Rochdale Infirmary, and has also had experience of private nursing.

CONCERT FOR NURSES.

A Concert for Nurses is being organized by Mr. Victor Beigel at the Queen's Hall, on Wednesday, May 2nd, at 5 p.m. Admission is by invitation only, and application should be made for tickets to the Secretary of the College of Nursing, 6, Vere Street, W. The Hon. Arthur Stanley will give a short address, presumably on the scope of the College.

WEDDING BELLS.

We are informed that the marriage of Miss E. Cooper, late Matron of St. George's Hospital, London, and Dr. Archibald M. H. Gray, of University College Hospital, R.A.M.C., takes place this week.

The marriage was solemnised last week at Gartheli Church of Dr. Vernon Monckton, of West Kensington, to Miss Lizzie Jones. The young couple met in France when on military service. We wish them every happiness.

THE MOBILISATION OF DOCTORS.

The sinking of hospital ships by the Germans —a most cowardly method of warfare—has necessitated the calling up of doctors for service abroad, with the increased number of hospitals being organised in France. Unless granted postponement on appeal every doctor up to a certain age must hold himself in readiness after May 6th to join the Army Medical Service at forty-eight hours' notice. The medical profession has played an all-important and patriotic part in this great war, and will continue to do so, whatever the sacrifice may entail.

NURSING ECHOES.

"The race marches forward on the feet of little children"—that is the *raison d'être* of the National Baby Week to be held in London in the first week in July, beginning on July 1st. The right of babies to be well born, and to live when once they have made their entry into this world, is undoubted, and the objects of Baby Week are to arouse the sense of racial responsibility in every citizen, so that the birthright of mental and bodily health may be secured to every baby; to inform the public as to what is being done, whether by voluntary agencies, local authorities, or the State, for young children and their mothers; and to show what could be done if every citizen realized, and discharged, his or her responsibilities.

There is no better method of instruction than through the eye, and during the Week exhibitions are to be held in London, and later in the provinces, illustrating the right and wrong treatment of infants. Pram parades for prizes, pageants, and garden parties, at which plays, emphasising the importance of child welfare, will be presented, are a few of the attractions.

On May 2nd there is to be a meeting at Sunderland House, when a school of elocution, to train mothers to address mothers, will be formed, and speakers enrolled. Helpers will be welcomed at the Central Office, National Baby Week, Kingsway House, W.C. 2.

An excellent Cartoon, "Whence and Whither," is published in the current issue of *Maternity and Child Welfare* in illustration of the following skit:—

Baby (inquisitively): "Where do I come from, Sister dear? Out of the everywhere into here?"

Child Welfare (rather crossly): "That's Major Darwin's affair, and anyhow it can't be helped now. The point is, where are you going to?"

Baby: "Well, I think I'll go to Mill-Town-on-Slack, because there is a lot of babies there."

Child Welfare (grimly): "So there is; but Sir Arthur Newsholme says three out of every ten of them don't grow up."

Baby: "Oh! that's a pity. Then I'll go to Healthville-cum-prudence, and make sure of growing up."

Child Welfare: "No you won't, because they don't hardly have any babies at all there."

Baby (sadly): "What shall I do, then? Must I wait for the Ministry of Public Health?"

Child Welfare (after a pause): "Wait till Baby Week, and see who gets our Challenge Shield."

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Mr. J. Stanfield) presided at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses held at the City Hall on Tuesday in last week. Speaking in support of the report, Major Ewen J. Maclean pointed out that the medical and surgical triumphs of the day were in a large measure based upon the skill of trained and efficient nurses. Having regard for the critical days ahead in the nursing profession and the need for the enhancing of emolument, there should, he thought, be State registration of nurses. He believed and hoped the time was coming when the services of the Queen's nurses would be recognised. Their work enhanced such developments as were on foot in Cardiff with regard to maternity and child welfare, which would probably double the cases treated when the scheme of the local health authorities came into effect. All this would make the country more worth living in, and to some extent would prevent emigration of soldiers to our Colonies and to the United States at the end of the war.

The Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association expressed its appreciation at a recent meeting of the following expression of opinion on "Nursing" in the Report of the Inspector of Charities and Charitable Institutions :—

"Of all the occupations in life requiring skilful knowledge, that of Nursing is the most unsatisfactory.

"The nurse has no legal recognition, consequently no rights, and no protection; yet she is indispensable in the interests of the public; the issues of life and death are involved in the skill with which she performs her duties It is essential above all things that she should be qualified, and it is equally essential that none but the qualified should be allowed to practise for gain as qualified nurses, so that the public may have a guarantee that when they pay for a trained nurse they are in the hands of one who is qualified. This can only be brought about by legislation. The passing of the Bill, 'To regulate the Qualifications of Trained Nurses and to provide for their Registration, &c.,' would give to nurses and the public the security so much required by both.

"This State has every reason to be proud of its nurses. They have shown marked ability, and hold their own with nurses anywhere in the world. The heroism they have displayed in nursing cerebro-spinal meningitis and other highly infectious diseases is beyond all praise. They have faced a deadly unseen enemy, and while they were given the option of refusing to go into the ward, not one ever flinched from facing the ordeal. It is difficult to conceive of greater self-sacrifice than this.

"There are undoubtedly heroes in the trenches, but there are also heroines in the hospitals. They are deserving of legislative protection."

THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL OFFICERS AND HOSPITAL MATRONS.

The above Association, of which Mr. F. A. Hocking, B.Sc., Pharmaceutist, London Hospital, is President, and which includes many progressive Secretaries of hospitals amongst its members, has issued a letter to hospital Matrons, which states: "This Association was founded in 1902, and suggestions have been made at various times since its inception, that the Association should admit to its membership, Matrons, Assistant Matrons, and other Nurses holding administrative positions in hospitals. The Council would be prepared to organise a meeting to discuss a proposal that nursing officials shall be admitted to membership of a special (Nursing) branch, which shall appoint its own officers and council, and have a section of the *Hospital Gazette* devoted to its interests. Before proceeding with such a scheme, they desire to ascertain whether it would be acceptable to those whom it is intended to benefit." The signatories of the letter ask for the opinion of those to whom it is addressed.

May we recall past history. The Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers is the outcome of the now defunct Hospitals Association. This Association had a Nursing Section, whose decisions were overridden, by the Council, on the Registration of Nurses question in 1887, upon which the Matron members resigned in a body and founded the British Nurses' Association.

Surely the Matron of a hospital is an "officer," and is or should be eligible for membership of any Association incorporated under the above title.

Why restrict nursing officials to a special branch? They have their own professional organisations and the day has gone by for keeping women in water-tight compartments so far as humanity is concerned. In the prevention of human wreckage through bad social conditions, in the administration of organised relief, in the building up of the moral and physical power of the people, together men and women must do these things—if they are to realise the highest value.

Admit Matrons and other women holding administrative positions in hospitals to full membership of the Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers by all means, and let it avail itself of their special knowledge and help.

Our advice to women is to refuse to be relegated to sex compounds when helping with social reform; it is only waste of valuable time. Great is mother spirit and free and unfettered, the world was never in greater need of it.

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BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"TWILIGHT." *

"A couple of years ago on the verge of an illness that subsequently overwhelmed me, I took a small furnished house in Pinelands.

"Three months of neuritis, only kept within bounds by drugs, had made me comparatively indifferent to my surroundings. I wish to relate a set of circumstances that made my stay in Pinelands memorable.

"The house was called Browans, and it was haunted for me from the first by Margaret Eldon and Gabriel Stanton."

The writer goes on to describe her first arrival and how Dr. Kennedy at the instigation of her sister visited her the same evening.

"A tall and not ill-looking man in the late thirties or early forties. He had on the worst suit of country tweeds I had ever seen, and incongruously well made boots."

He did not accord with the black-coated London brigade, and his opening was certainly different.

"How long have you been feeling unwell?" was what I expected, but Dr. Kennedy sat for a few minutes without speaking at all. Then he asked me abruptly:

"Did you know Mrs. Eldon?"

"Who?"

"Margaret Eldon? You knew she lived here, didn't you? That it was here it all happened?"

"What happened?"

"Uncouth" was the adjective that presented itself to my mind as I looked at him.

In vain this strange man endeavoured to interest himself in his present patient. He could not keep off his text. "I used to come here so often—two or three times a day sometimes."

"Was she ill?" The question was perfunctorily asked. Margaret Eldon was nothing to me then.

Evidently the romance of his life had been this Margaret Eldon. Unnerved, unstrung, and highly imaginative, and under the influence of nepenthe the writer described how at night she had visions of and conversations with Margaret, with whose presence the place had become impregnated.

"That night I took less nepenthe, yet saw Margaret Eldon more vividly. She stayed a long time too. This time she wore a blue peignoir, her hair hung down and she looked very young and girlish."

Margaret, like the writer of the story, belonged to the literary world, which was a point of union between her and her shadowy visitor.

The story alternates between the descriptions of the writer's serious illness, for which she is treated by Dr. Kennedy and the history of Margaret Eldon, which is culled partly from visions but mostly from letters and papers in the possession of Dr. Kennedy and lent to her for perusal by him

The following is a brief outline of her very fascinating history

Margaret Eldon, young and attractive, had come some years previously to Pinelands to wait for the decree against her husband to be made absolute. Gabriel Stanton was to marry her the moment she was free.

Margaret, a frail creature, suffered from acute attacks of angina pectoris, for which she was treated by Dr. Kennedy, who in his turn became passionately attached to her.

A few days before the decree was to be made absolute, blackmail was levied against Margaret, though she was perfectly innocent, accusing her of impropriety with both Gabriel and Dr. Kennedy.

In a passion of dread that her marriage with Gabriel will be made an impossibility, she allows Dr. Kennedy to pay hush money. Gabriel, a high-minded man, keenly resents his action and he entreats her to stop the cheque.

"Margaret, we are clean. There must be no one that can say 'Had they been innocent would they have paid to hide it.'"

The horror of the prospect of once more standing in the divorce court, of once more going through that terrible ordeal, before Gabriel and she could taste their bliss, overwhelms her.

A terrible attack of pain overtakes her. She persuades Kennedy, who loves her, to give her an overdose of hyoscine.

"He had feared his strength, but his strength had been equal to her need. She was out of pain, nothing else mattered. He had sealed her to him, she was his woman now and for ever, no self-righteous iceberg could hold and deny her.

"Sleep well, beloved," he whispered. "I kept my promise, I did not fail you."

This same Dr. Kennedy attends the writer of the story and entrusts her with his secret. His disordered mind at last imagines her to be his lost Margaret.

This book is a most interesting psychological study, and the imaginations of a mind under the influence of drugs are vividly penned.

H. H.

* By Frank Danby. Hutchinson & Co., London. Price 6s.

COMING EVENTS.

May 2nd.—Nurses' Missionary League. Fifteenth Annual Conference and Meeting. *Morning*, 10–12.30. *Afternoon*, 2.30–5. *Evening*, 7–9.30. University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

May 3rd.—Society State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, W. 5 p.m.

May 21st–25th.—Post Graduate Week for Midwives, General Lying-in Hospital, York Rd., Lambeth, S.E.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

May 1st.—Examinations. London, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD (Scotland).

April 30th.—Examinations. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY *hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

THE OFFENDING CLAUSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—All Military Matrons are not so devoid of justice as the two consulted by "A Poverty Stricken Person." I consulted our Matron on the "Offending Clause," and her reply was, "I cannot advise you on this matter as it is approved by our superior officers but I would thrust my own hand in the fire, like Cranmer, before I would sign it." That was good enough advice for me. I think "Justice," on April 14th, makes an excellent suggestion, "Why not a Court of Inquiry for Nurses?" As she says, all other members of His Majesty's Forces may claim a Court Martial. Why are we nurses alone to be treated as if we had no human rights? I hope more will be heard of this matter. Thanking you for making it public,

I am, yours sincerely,
A MEMBER QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S
IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING RESERVE.

"THE MYSTERIOUS PACT."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As the title and constitution of the Royal British Nurses' Association become merged in the Royal British College of Nursing, if the Supplemental Charter is granted, and there will then be no members of the R.B.N.A., how can it be "understood" as provided in clause 5 of Mr. Sydney Pitt's letter to the College of Nursing, Ltd., "that one-third of the Members of the first Council elected under the Bye-laws, and one-third of the Members of the Amalgamated Body who may represent it on the Council under the proposed Bill for Registration of Nurses, shall be members of the Royal British Nurses' Association?" As by the time these Councils are formed the R.B.N.A. will be past and gone so far as membership is concerned, how is this provision to be carried out? It can only mean that the persons—the Hon. Officers, &c.—who have been placed on the nominated Council insist upon being retained on it. Then how about an elected self-governing Body, promised to the Nurse Members? It is all too difficult for me.

Yours truly,
LIFE MEMBER R.B.N.A.

[Under the Supplemental Charter Nursing cannot be elevated into a Profession. It will be a domestic avocation controlled by employers. Trained Nurses must therefore fight with the utmost courage and tenacity for a Bill to organise their highly-skilled and scientific work on a professional basis. This is what we have been working for for half a lifetime.—ED.]

THE SHORTAGE OF V.A.D.'S.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been a "V.A.D." now worn out like an old shoe; there is no more use for me in a military hospital. Perhaps my experience is like that of others, and may have something to do with the shortage of these workers. The truth is we were greatly misled by our training before the war, which was in First Aid and Home Nursing from Lectures and Books, and naturally when we were mobilised we expected to nurse sick and wounded soldiers, instead of which I for one was deputed to domestic duties only, cleaning, washing-up, running messages, Jack-of-all-trades—and it was too much for me beginning at thirty-eight to do work young probationers of a more robust class have to do at twenty-one. I know you disapprove of the Nursing Organisation of V.A. Detachments, and I agree with you that had our service been properly organised by trained Superintendents instead of men and women of the leisured class we should have been trained for probationers' duties, known what hospital discipline meant, and should have been treated very differently in hospitals. In one we were harried all the time, and made to realise our "absurd ambitions," in an otherwe were "kow-towed" to because it was thought "canny" to keep in with influential people, no knowing what "honours" were coming along! Both attitudes were wrong. I have worked under both *régimes* and found them equally worrying.

In spite of everything, I sympathise with the rank and file of the nurses. As one told me, "I have done four years 'hard' for my Certificate and could not afford to break down. What do you think of these flappers?" And indeed it was a marvel how she kept going on such flat feet.

"A new generation of nurses are not going to do four years hard labour," she told me, "if as our senior surgeon has reported from the Front, 'an untrained V.A.D. is equally expert in the wards and theatre,' it either means that gentleman does not know what trained nursing is, or we are being exploited by the Training Schools in a very unscrupulous manner. We shall have to know which after the war."

My plea is for professional teaching, control, and supervision under the Red Cross in Britain as it is in the United States.

Yours truly,
AN OLD SHOE.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

May 5th.—Name some diseases that may be caused by the following errors in diet; (*a*) insufficient food, (*b*) lack of fresh food, (*c*) overeating, (*d*) improperly balanced diet.

May 12th.—Differentiate between (*a*) communicable, (*b*) contagious, and (*c*) infectious diseases, and give an example of each.

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Prize Competition.

Prize Competition Coupon

April 28th, 1917

Name of Competitor .....

Address .....

RULES FOR COMPETITION.

1. Any reader of The British Journal of Nursing may compete for the prize of **FIVE SHILLINGS** which will be paid to the **writer of the best article of from 300 to 750 words on the following subject—"Name some diseases that may be caused by the following errors in diet; (a) insufficient food; (b) lack of fresh food; (c) overeating; (d) improperly balanced diet?"**

The dated Coupon for April 28th, published on this page, must be cut out by the Competitor, and enclosed with the article she sends, with her full name and address inserted. The number of words of article to be written on left hand top corner of first page. This answer should be posted not later than **April 28th,** to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W., marked on the envelope "Prize Competition." **The Name of the Winner of the Prize and the Prize Article will appear on May 5th, 1917.**

2. The Editor's decision must be accepted by each Competitor as final and unquestionable.

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

We have received from the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board a verbatim report of Mr. Golding-Bird's valedictory address on his retirement from the Central Midwives Board, as representative of the Royal College of Surgeons, which was briefly reported in our issue of March 24th. We are informed that the Chairman attaches a high value to this testimony, and have pleasure in printing it in full in our current issue.

MR. GOLDING-BIRD'S TESTIMONY ON RETIRING FROM THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

"I had always regarded the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons as the type of what a Court or Board should be. But I confess my experience here has taught me that the Central Midwives Board runs it very close indeed.

"Under your Chairmanship, Sir Francis, I consider this Board to be, in its methods and procedure, as perfect as it is possible; the minutest question being weighed and decided with patient care, and with every precaution against a wrong judgment being given. In penal cases this is especially so, and the charges against the poor women who are brought before us (and whose errors are more often from ignorance than of set purpose) are dealt with with absolute fairness, and, when possible, with every exhibition of mercy.

"I have often, too, thought the work of this Board—if only measured by the many consecutive hours that we sit here—to be hard indeed; but, on reflection, I am struck with wonder at what the work must have been for those who, like yourself and some others who still are members of the Board, had the duty of not only shaping the methods of procedure at the first, but also the drawing up of the admirable and exhaustive Rules under which the working of the Midwives Act is carried out, and the creation of the many precedents that now guide us.

"I soon discovered that it takes a long time to 'learn the ropes,' which are intricate indeed, but, once mastered, business proceeds with almost automatic precision.

"It cannot be too widely known how thoroughly the Midwives Act is administered by this Board; and I venture the opinion that its methods might well form an example for other public bodies to imitate.

"I trust you may, Sir Francis, long be spared to continue, with your colleagues, your invaluable services to the State; and I will only add that it is with the greatest sorrow and reluctance that I have been obliged, by circumstance beyond my control, to send in my own resignation."

We may point out that the constitution of the Central Midwives Board, whose work Mr. Golding-Bird eulogises so warmly, is founded on the principle for which the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses is contending in connection with the Registration of Trained Nurses, *i.e.*, its members are appointed by responsible bodies as their representatives. A defect in the constitution of the Central Midwives Board is the absence of provision for the direct representation upon it of the Midwives themselves but the principle adopted is, otherwise, the right one.

Authorities Represented on the Central Midwives' Board.

The responsible authorities nominating representatives on to the Central Midwives Board are the Privy Council, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Society of Apothecaries, the Incorporated Midwives Institute, the Association of County Councils, the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and the Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, April 19th.

The first business was the election of the Chairman, and Sir Francis Champneys vacated the chair which was temporarily occupied by Professor Briggs, who, seconded by Miss Paget, expressed the sincere thanks of the Board to Sir Francis for his services. Sir Francis who was unanimously re-elected on resuming the chair expressed his thanks to the Board, and welcomed the new members Mr. H. W. Ayling appointed by the Society of Apothecaries, and Dr. W. S. A. Griffith by the Royal College of Surgeons. The Finance Committee and the Penal Cases Committee were then re-appointed, after which the Secretary read the letter from the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, notifying Dr. Griffith's appointment.

Report of the Standing Committee.

It was agreed (*a*) to thank the Leicester and Leicestershire Midwives' Association for a communication urging the immediate introduction of legislation making penal the treatment of Venereal Diseases by any person but a registered medical practitioner and (*b*) that in view of the grave national dangers arising from the neglect or the improper treatment of venereal diseases the Central Midwives Board considers that legislation with the above object should be introduced with the least possible delay.

The Board refused to allow Form IV, a certificate of having attended a course of lectures,

to be signed by two lecturers at the Birmingham Maternity Hospital holding that all certificates in respect of one course should, except as a temporary expedient, in an exceptional case, be signed by one lecturer only. The application of the Gloucester District Nursing Society asking for the approval by the Board of three qualified medical practitioners as lecturers to the Society was granted on condition that each course of lectures was delivered by one lecturer only.

It was decided to answer in the negative a letter from the Lady Superintendent of the Plaistow Maternity Charity, enquiring whether a woman who is quite deaf, but capable of understanding conversation by means of lip-reading is eligible for admission to the Board's examination.

APPLICATIONS.

For Voluntary Removal of Name from the Roll.—Fifteen applications were granted.

For Recognition as Lecturer.—The applications of the following medical practitioners were granted:—Dr. John Booth, Dr. Michael Cagney, F.R.C.P.I., Dr. Isabel Mitchell, Mr. Walter Rahilly, L.R.C.P. and S.I.

The application of Dr. John Ford Anderson was granted pro tem. and of Mr. E. E. Paget-Tomlinson, M.R.C.S., pro hac vice.

For Approval as Trainers.—Midwife J. A. J. Cammann (No. 43023), and Midwife Mary Grant (No. 11197).

THE ROLL.

The price of the Roll for 1917 was fixed at 15s.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The application of Mary Walker (late No. 5215) for re-instatement was granted.

The next meetings of the Penal Board were fixed for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19th and 20th, at 11 a.m.

THE EAST END MOTHERS' LYING-IN HOME.

The Annual Meeting of the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home took place at the Home, 396, Commercial Road, on Wednesday April 18th, and was very well attended.

The chair was taken by Dr. Owen Lankester, whose unfailing interest in the Home and unceasing care for the mothers and babies is more marked every year. Dr. Lankester said that the Home had suffered in every possible way on account of the war, and he remarked at some length upon the decrease of the number of Nurses in training. Some women, he said, seemed to think that no special instruction was needed in nursing, that they had only to lift a finger, and comfortable lucrative posts came at once. No employment needed such skill, patience, energy, and such an angelic temper. He felt proud to be the head of such a Home as the East End Mothers' Home, though he only claimed to be the nominal head. Miss Anderson, as every one knows, is the actual head, and it is entirely due to her good management, untiring energy, and inspiriting personality that the working of the Home goes on so smoothly and successfully year after year.

Mrs. H. B. Irving, in moving a resolution, made a charming appeal for wider financial support in order that the Home may be able to maintain its efficiency and enlarge the sphere of its activity. She asked specially for the removal of the year's deficit of £71 6s. 3d. Nothing is so disheartening as having to carry on a splendid work and to face arrears at the same time. She welcomed the increasing national interest in infant welfare and maternity work as a sign that the well-to-do were learning that we are all members of one great family. It was hurtful to the feelings of womanhood to realise that there were mothers and babies in the world for whom the conditions of a wholesome life did not exist. It would be a splendid thing if the Home could be established on a firm basis. It deserved to be, for there is a great need of such a centre. At the Home twelve years ago, the first Mothers' and Babies' Welcome in Stepney was started. The number of mothers attending increased so tremendously that the Stepney School for Mothers was started by transferring them there. Mrs. Irving also pointed out that nearly 1,800 mothers were attended by the Home during the year 1916, and that the excellent results testified not only to the skill at the time of birth, but to the very efficient ante-natal care and teaching the mothers had received. Besides the visiting in connection with ante-natal work, 22,650 visits were paid by the Nurses.

The Rev. J. F. Stern, in seconding the resolution that the Home should receive wider support, said that what struck him most forcibly about it was the humanity shown by Miss Anderson and her Staff to all poor women in their time of need.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by the Rev. R. P. McAuliffe.

After the meeting, tea was hospitably served, and then many of the guests visited the wards, which looked charming. Particularly noticeable was the fact that the little swing cots at the foot of each bed—each with its snug, soft, white coverlet, with dainty blue border—was just within reach of the mother, instead of out of reach, as is so often the case. Five nationalities, including a solemn little Russian baby, were included in the babies on view. One mother, with bandaged head, had a topical story. She stood so long in a potato queue, that just as she arrived near home, she fainted and injured her head in falling. No cab being available to remove her to the Home, the Matron finally secured the police ambulance, and had a very bad case of hemorrhage on her hands, but all's well that ends well.

Queen Alexandra has graciously accorded her patronage to Mme. Alys Bateman's concert in aid of the Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Marylebone Road, which is greatly in need of funds. The concert will take place at Queen's Hall on Tuesday afternoon, May 15th at 2.45.

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ETHEL THOMAS.

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The Medical Profession and the Public support the Society with confidence, because a high standard of professional efficiency is maintained, and it works on just economic principles.

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